re-use of water, preservation of the quality of environment, soil-moisture conservation, water harvesting practices, development of ground water etc. form part of the National Water Policy.

**Mullapperiyar Dam**

2702. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1750 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to convene a meeting of Chief Minister of States concerned to resolve the Mullapperiyar Dam issue; and

(b) how many hectares of land will be cultivated/irrigated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The maximum area irrigated is about 74,500 hectare. The actual area irrigated from year to year depends on the availability of water for diversion in the reservoir.

**Shortage of potable drinking water**

2703. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of potable drinking water in earthquake affected areas/towns/villages/cities in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to supply potable drinking water to various parts of Gujarat immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Due to the deficient rainfall

during south-west monsoon certain parts of Gujarat are facing drought like situation thereby affecting the availability of drinking water. It is expected that drinking water would be required to be transported by road and by train for 3,185 village and 43 towns by 30.6.2001. Railways is providing free transportation of drinking water to the affected areas. Further, Government of Gujarat have reported that due to the recent earthquake drinking water supply in 1,340 villages of Kutch, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Surendranagar district of Gujarat have been affected. However, Drinking water supply in all these villages has since been restored.

Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. State Governments implement rural water supply programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojna—Rural Drinking Water. The powers to plan, sanction and implement schemes/projects have been delegated to the State Governments.

The entire allocation of Rs. 74.85 (70.85 under ARWSP and Rs. 4.00 crores under ARWSP—for DDP areas) for the current year under ARWSP has already been released to the State Government. Further, it has been decided to release additional Rs. 100.00 crores (Rs. 91.70 crores under ARWSP and Rs. 8.30 crores under ARWSP—for DDP areas) to Gujarat for providing rural drinking water in the wake ot drought/earthquake in the State. The guidelines for ARWSP have been relaxed to the extent that the funds under the programme could now also be utilized for activities relating to repair, rejuvenation, renovation, restoration and replacement of existing rural drinking water schemes in areas affected by searcity of drinking water in the State. This special dispensation will be applicable up to 30th June 2001. Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources has handed over 95 tubewells as on 16.2.2001 and has offered to hand over another 98 tubewells to the Government of Gujarat. Further the Ministry of Agriculture has released Rs. 85.00 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund to the Government of Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 4 O'clock.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past eleven of the clock.